

Week Seven

Conversations with People

RUNNING PARTNERS' GUIDE

Foreshadowing: Next week, at the final gathering for this module, the Conversations with People guide will have a brief game to review Scripture memory cards together. Make an effort to be ready for that time.

NOTE: THIS WEEK IS DIFFERENT

This week's Conversations with People is organized a bit differently than previously. As always, the conversation will influence different people differently, but the topic and the exercise hold potential to be one of the more important conversations in the *Morph* experience. Consider following this guide closely, but most importantly, listen to God's Spirit as you interact with each other.

The guide that follows is designed to...

- ▶ Allow participants to each speak of influences in their life that have influenced their perception of God.
- ▶ Provide opportunity for God's Spirit to speak graciously into each other's lives.
- ▶ Provide concrete next steps to address misperceptions.

INITIATE MEETING

- ▶ Designate someone to pray. Before praying...
 - Read the Running Partner Values (page 15) aloud.
 - Sit silently for thirty seconds to individually pray and to slow yourselves down.

EXERCISE

- ▶ Walk through the following page together for each person.

PERCEPTIONS OF GOD

Based on insights gained from the Morph Me exercise, walk through the following questions person by person, and help each other gain clarity and insight. The pages that follow this page give examples to better inform the meaning of the questions here. It's suggested to read those examples as a group and then come back to this page.

Misperception of God Titled: _____

- ▶ Share with the group key influences that have shaped this misperception.
- ▶ Ask the group to assist in giving the misperception a title.

Ways this misperception is seen in my life:

Passages of Scripture or known truths that address this misperception:

- ▶ Ask the group to assist in offering Scriptures that address the misperception.

Action I will take over the next month to get to know God as he truly is:

- ▶ Ask the group to assist in offering ways the misperception could be addressed in the coming days and weeks.

EXAMPLES

The following are not intended to be comprehensive but are given as examples.

Misperception of God Titled: The Cosmic Kill-Joy

Ways this misperception is seen in my life:

I see God as a cosmic kill-joy looking to rob my life of fun. This misperception has influenced the way I do my Friday nights. I walk away from God and do my own thing.

Passages of Scripture or known truths that address this misperception:

*John 10:10
Hebrews 3:13
Galatians 6:9*

Action I will take over the next month to get to know God as he truly is:

Over the next month, I'll trust God with my Friday nights. I'll look for new ways to enjoy life. I'll also memorize and meditate on Galatians 6:7-10.

Misperception of God Titled: The Naive-to-the-World God

Ways this misperception is seen in my life:

I see God as naive to the ways this world really works. God's not interested in my business or my financial needs. Because of that, I keep my work separate from God. At times, I take ethical shortcuts or knowingly hurt those around me.

Passages of Scripture or known truths that address this misperception:

*Matthew 6:25-34
Proverbs 13:11
Much of Proverbs addresses issues of finance and work.*

ACTION I WILL TAKE OVER THE NEXT MONTH TO GET TO KNOW GOD AS HE TRULY IS:

Over the next month, I'll read through Proverbs and note every verse that addresses money. I'll increasingly entrust my work to God by identifying areas of corner cutting and discussing these with my Running Partners at our next meeting.

Misperception of God Titled: The Belittling God

Ways this misperception is seen in my life:

I see God as a nag. He consistently points his finger at every little thing and consistently looks at me with his arms crossed. Consequently, I avoid God. I don't talk to him because I don't want to hear what he has to say.

Passages of Scripture or known truths that address this misperception:

*Romans 5:1
Romans 8:1
Ephesians 2:8-9*

Actions I will take over the next month to address this misperception:

*I will recognize that this is not about God but about past authority figures in my life.
I will meditate daily on Romans 8:1.
I will cultivate a grateful and worshipful spirit by daily thanking God for the good things he is doing in my life. I will write these thoughts down and share them with my Running Partners next time we meet.*

Misperception of God: The Distant God

Ways this misperception is seen in my life:

I see God as far away and unaware, or at least disinterested, in the daily realities of my life. Because of this, I don't talk to God about normal stuff. I only talk to him about things I assume he's interested in hearing.

Passages of Scripture or known truths that address this misperception:

Matthew 10:29-30 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Actions I will take over the next month to address this misperception:

On my drive to work each day, I will talk to God about the details of the day before me. I'll talk to him about both big things and little things, whatever is on my mind.